

**CITY OF TUCSON SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION (SBC)
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2005**

Mayor and Council Chambers
**255 W. Alameda
Tucson, Arizona 85701**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deb Turner at 4:13 p.m.

Members in attendance: Deb Turner, Chair; Richard Krone, Vice-Chair, Chuck Josephson, Joe Higgins, Lenny Gulotta, Joanna Dinan, Don Windmiller, Les Gin, Kendall Morgan, Diane Castro, Pamela Crim, and Eva Macias
Members absent: Eddie Escalante, Jan Gordley
Guests: Kathleen Dunbar, Vice Mayor; Scott Douthitt, Finance Department; Kendall Bert, Office of Economic Development; Larry Cummings, Economic Development; Ramon Gaanderse, Ward III Council Aide; Lorraine Hernandez, Ward II Council Aide; Levi Jackson, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; Ellen Hitchings, Finance Department; Tom Moulton, Pima County Small Business Commission; Michelle Bolton, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB); Vernon Walker, small business owner.
City Staff: Perla Porras

APPROVAL OF THE January 27, 2004 MINUTES

Vice chair Richard Krone, made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Approved.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

- April 8th – Procurement Fair
- May – National Association Business Owners
- May 17th – Small Business Week at the Radisson Hotel
- September 16th – Minority Enterprise Week at Z Mansion
- April 6th – Panel with Mayor Walkup, Supervisor Sharon Bronson, City Manager Mike Hein, County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry, League of Women – 4 Step Regional Government at the Pima Community College Downtown Campus.
- Joanna Dinan met with the University of Arizona re: Student Union to study effect of mandatory food cards on small businesses, University of Arizona Business Advisory Council.
- New member, Britton Dornquast, will be replacing David Carranza. Mr. Dornquast has not been sworn in yet.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATHLEEN DUNBAR

Small businesses should visit my office to resolve issues early in the process, not at the last minute. Small businesses should go to Boards and Commissions first with issues. There have been communications issues with other City offices. Small businesses should deal with Development Services liaison re: effects of road construction.

SBC expressed desire for Mayor and Council to get information to SBC in a timely manner. SBC gets very little input from Mayor and Council on issues.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – KENDALL BERT, DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREO) Inc. is the new name for the Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC). Blue ribbon committee established 1 year ago suggested establishing an economic development 9-member board. The object is to bring together the City of Tucson Office of Economic Development, Pima County Economic Development, and Greater Tucson Economic Council (GTEC). There will be a Small Business Advisory Council with participation from the City of Tucson Small Business Commission, Pima County Small Business Commission, and University of Arizona Small Business Advisory Committee. A short-term plan will be in place by July 1, 2005. There will be evaluation and performance criteria established.

RETAIL REDEVELOPMENT POLICY – SCOTT DOUTHITT, FINANCE DIRECTOR

An oversight committee has been formed. Lupita Valencia and Larry Cummings, formerly of the Office of Economic Development, will be involved with the Retail Redevelopment Policy. The Small Business Commission will be kept informed. The Small Business Commission is being transferred to the Finance Department within the next 3 to 4 weeks. Ellen Hitchings will be the staff contact.

MICHELLE BOLTON, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES (NFIB)

Thanked the SBC for its efforts. She suggested getting press and more small business owners to the SBC meetings. She also suggested have a "Boards and Commissions Day" where all board and commission members could get together and exchange ideas.

BUSINESS LICENSE TAX AND FEES

Ellen Hitchings addressed the SBC with an update. The Task Force is making progress. Chuck Josephson handed out a draft of one item being considered by the Task Force. The plan is to have a recommendation to the Mayor and Council on the August 2nd study session agenda.

SIGN CODE/A-FRAME ORDINANCE

Joe Higgins, the SBC/Sign Code representative, presented a draft ordinance and made a motion to accept. The motion was seconded and passed. The starting date is Summer 2005. The draft calls for a reduction of size of A-frame. Planning/Zoning a hurdle to be approved.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Vernon Walker, small business owner, stated that Development Services is not helpful to small business.

FUTURE AGENDA

- SBC Vacancies
- SBC ByLaws
- Sign Code Ordinance
- Business License Tax and Fees
- TREO Inc.
- Retail Redevelopment Policy
- False Alarm Task Force Update
- The UofA Small Business Advisory Committee
- Mike Hein, New City Manager
- (Palo Verde/Dodge) Construction impact on businesses – Jan Gordley

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.